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ABSTRACT

In 1985, Kingsborough Community College (KCC) in Brooklyn, established the New Start Program to assist students who began their post-secondary education at cooperating senior colleges, but encountered academic difficulties there. The program offers individual and group counseling to help participants overcome previous difficulties and work toward future success. A total of 802 students from 10 colleges participated in New Start during its first 4 years, with enrollments growing from 51 in fall 1985 to 416 in spring 1989. Enrollments were concentrated in three curricula: Liberal Arts, Business Administration, and Accounting. By the end of spring 1989, 20.1% of all New Start students had graduated from KCC and/or transferred to senior colleges; 46% were planning to continue at KCC after spring 1989; 22% had dropped or stopped out; and 11% had been academically dismissed from KCC. No New Start graduate who applied to a senior college had failed to be admitted by one of the colleges of his/her choice. The major emphasis for New Start's future development is the enhancement of the quantity, range, and effectiveness of the assistance provided to students, with particular focus on their first semester at KCC. Currently, prospective students attend a group orientation and academic advisement session before they enroll, and receive individual counseling as needed afterwards. To supplement these services, New Start staff are considering adding individual counseling sessions to the admissions process and are working on the further development of a 12-hour course, "Career and Life Planning," designed to help students analyze past decisions that led to difficulty and learn how to make more effective choices in the future. (WJT)

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Kingsborough Community College

of

The City University of New York

NEW START PROGRAM REPORT:

SEPTEMBER, 1985 - JUNE, 1989

Prepared by

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JC 900 020

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Kingsborough Community College's New Start Program began in September, 1985, with a few dozen students who had been about to be dismissed from Brooklyn College. In the four years since that time, enrollment in the program has increased eightfold, and the number of cooperating senior colleges (colleges which have formally agreed to refer their academically unsuccessful students to New Start) has grown to ten.

New Start is a program for students who began their post-secondary education at cooperating senior colleges but encountered difficulty there. Experience with such students has shown that, when given a second chance and some extra support, most do very well in the program.

New Start students are admitted to Kingsborough as matriculants in good academic standing. Their previous grades are not carried over into their Kingsborough grade point averages, and they are not restricted with respect to choice of major. Each student can use up to 30 previously earned credits toward an associate degree. Participants in the program are given individual and group counseling designed to assist them in overcoming previous difficulties and working toward future success.

Senior colleges whose unsuccessful students are eligible for New Start now include eight colleges of the City University of New York, one college of the State University of New York, and one private university. These cooperating senior colleges are Brooklyn College (since Fall, 1985), the College of Staten

Island and Queens College (both since Fall, 1986), John Jay College of Criminal Justice, Lehman College, Hunter College, SUNY Maritime College, and Adelphi University (all since Fall, 1987), Baruch College (since Spring, 1988), and the City College of New York (since Spring, 1989).

Enrollment

Enrollment statistics for the New Start Program since its inception are presented in Table 1.

A cumulative total of 802 students have participated in New Start during its first four years. Semester-by-semester enrollment has grown steadily from 51 in Fall, 1985, to 416 in Spring, 1989 (a more than 800% increase).

The majority of New Start students have come from Brooklyn College; as of Spring, 1989, approximately 56% of the cumulative total were former Brooklyn students. The College of Staten Island and John Jay College are the next most frequently represented, with 16.2% and 14.6%, respectively. Although Baruch College has been cooperating with New Start for only three semesters, it has already contributed the fourth largest number of students. Understandably, the smallest number of New Start students have come from the geographically most distant cooperating school, Adelphi University.

In Table 2 are listed the Kingsborough curricula chosen by New Start students. As indicated also in previous reports (Winchell, 1986, 1987, 1988), enrollment is concentrated in three curricula: Liberal Arts (28.4%, as of this report), Business Administration (now with 18.8%), and Accounting (11.2%).

However, as can be seen from the extensive list in Table 2, virtually every curriculum at Kingsborough has had some New Start students.

Outcomes

As indicated in Table 3, 121 New Start students have earned associate degrees from Kingsborough since the program began. This number is more than twice the cumulative total (53) for the program's first three years (Winchell, 1988).

So far, students from Brooklyn College have been the most successful at completing Kingsborough degrees. Although former Brooklyn students comprise slightly under 56% of the program's cumulative population (see Table 1), they account for nearly 83% of its graduates. The low graduation rate for former John Jay College students might be explained in part by the fact that, unlike most other New Start participants, these students frequently return to their previous college after one year; because John Jay has many majors which are not offered anywhere else in the New York City area, that college has adopted policies which facilitate readmission to John Jay after two successful semesters in New Start.

The enrollment status of all New Start students as of the end of Spring, 1989, is summarized in Table 4. Of the cumulative total of 802 students who have participated in the program since it began, 20.1% have graduated from Kingsborough and/or are known to have transferred to senior colleges. This figure has increased from the 16.7% reported last year (Winchell, 1988). About 46% of the 802 students were planning to continue

at Kingsborough after Spring, 1989. Approximately 22% had either dropped out or "stopped out" by that time, but this figure also includes a sizeable but not precisely known number of students who subsequently enrolled at other colleges. (Efforts are now being made to trace these students more effectively.) Slightly more than 11% of the total group have been academically dismissed from Kingsborough.

New Start students who complete Kingsborough degrees have continued to be extremely successful in making arrangements to continue their education. No New Start graduate who has made application to senior colleges has failed to be admitted by at least one of his or her college choices. Outstanding New Start graduates have been accepted by a variety of competitive colleges, and some have been offered merit scholarships.

Future Development

The major emphasis for New Start's development for the coming year is to enhance the quantity, range, and effectiveness of assistance provided to its students. Because previous studies have shown that a student's first semester in New Start is crucial in relation to subsequent performance and retention (Winchell, 1986, 1987), particular efforts are being made to direct more attention to this group.

Prospective New Start students attend a group orientation and academic advisement session before they enroll, and they receive individual counseling as needed after they enroll. In an attempt to supplement these services, a pilot section of a one-credit, twelve-hour course titled "Career and Life

Planning" was offered in Spring, 1989, to first-semester New Start students. Taught by a New Start counselor, the course was designed to help students to analyze past decisions which had led to difficulty (e.g., selecting a senior college major inconsistent with one's abilities) and to learn how to make and implement more effective choices. Student evaluations of the course were favorable, and this approach will be developed further in future semesters.

A second proposed means of providing more early intervention is to include an individual counseling session as part of the admission process for every prospective student. Individual pre-enrollment counseling is expected not only to enhance eventual student performance but also to increase the number of eligible students who subsequently register. The support and assistance of Kingsborough's President already has made possible the hiring of an additional full-time counselor for the program; obviously, this enhancement of the New Start staff will be especially beneficial in the implementation of this proposal.

Table 1

New Start Program Enrollment by Semester and by Previous College

	Previous College										
Semester	BK	SI	Q	JJ	L	H	M	A	BA	C	TOTAL
Fall '85	51										51
(new students)	(51)										(51)
Spring '86	55										55
(new students)	(12)										(12)
Fall '86	121	37	6								164
(new students)	(84)	(37)	(6)								(127)
Spring '87	150	28	8								186
(new students)	(47)	(0)	(3)								(50)
Fall '87	175	33	21	44	2	2	1	0			278
(new students)	(74)	(22)	(14)	(44)	(2)	(2)	(1)	(0)			(159)
Spring '88	163	29	18	48	2	5	1	0	12		278
(new students)	(35)	(9)	(0)	(14)	(0)	(4)	(0)	(0)	(12)		(74)
Fall '88	199	65	20	78	6	14	1	2	22		407
(new students)	(85)	(46)	(9)	(52)	(4)	(11)	(0)	(2)	(13)		(222)
Spring '89	218	66	15	61	4	15	4	2	27	4	416
(new students)	(60)	(16)	(1)	(7)	(0)	(7)	(3)	(0)	(9)	(4)	(107)
Total Participants	448	130	33	117	6	24	4	2	34	4	802
% Of Total	55.9	16.2	4.1	14.6	0.7	3.0	0.5	0.3	4.2	0.5	100.0

BK = Brooklyn
SI = Staten Island
Q = Queens
JJ = John Jay
L = Lehman
H = Hunter
M = Maritime
A = Adelphi
BA = Baruch
C = City

Table 2

New Start Students' Curricula at KCC (9/85-6/89)

	Previous College											
Curriculum	BK	SI	Q	JJ	L	H	M	A	BA	C	Total	%
Liberal Arts	115	24	10	59	2	7	0	1	9	1	228	28.4
Business Admin.	82	32	6	21	0	1	0	0	8	1	151	18.8
Accounting	64	10	4	3	0	2	0	0	6	1	90	11.2
Nursing/Pre-Nursing	24	9	0	3	1	6	0	0	0	1	44	5.5
Early Childhood Ed.	18	6	1	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	31	3.9
Marketing Mgmt.	15	8	0	2	0	0	0	0	6	0	31	3.9
Data Processing	14	4	2	2	1	2	0	0	1	0	26	3.2
Mental Health	10	1	6	4	1	0	0	1	2	0	25	3.1
Biology	15	4	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	23	2.9
Secretarial/Off. Adm.	10	3	0	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	18	2.2
Computer Science	8	4	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	1.9
Pre-Physical Therapy	10	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	14	1.7
Engineering Science	4	6	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	1.6
Travel & Tourism	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	12	1.5
Mathematics	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	1.4
Sports, Fitness, Rec.	10	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	1.4
Chemistry	4	2	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	10	1.2
Broadcasting	9	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	1.2
Journalism	3	2	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	8	1.0
Fish. & Marine Tech.	2	0	0	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	7	0.9
Community Health	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.5
Fashion Merch.	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.5
Theatre	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.5
Personnel & Labor	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0.4
Education Associate	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.3
Fine Arts	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.3
Music	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.3
Physics	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.3
Envir. Health & Sci.	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.1
Total	448	129	38	113	6	24	4	2	34	4	802	100.1

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TABLE 3

KCC DEGREES AWARDED TO NEW START STUDENTS: JUNE '86 - JUNE '89

	PREVIOUS COLLEGE							
DEGREE	BK	SI	Q	JJ	M	BA	TOTAL	%
AA Liberal Arts	28	2	1	1	0	1	33	27.3
AAS Business Adm.	25	5	2	0	0	1	33	27.3
AAS Accounting	13	1	0	0	0	0	14	11.6
AAS Data Processing	7	0	1	0	0	0	8	6.6
AAS Early Childhood Ed.	6	0	0	0	0	0	6	5.0
AAS Travel & Tourism	3	1	0	0	0	1	5	4.1
AAS Secretarial/Off. Adm.	4	0	0	0	0	0	4	3.3
AAS Marketing Mgmt.	2	1	0	0	0	0	3	2.5
AS Mathematics	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	1.7
AS Mental Health	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	1.7
AAS Broadcasting	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	1.7
AAS Fisheries & Marine Tech.	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	1.7
AAS Nursing	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	1.7
AS Biology	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.8
AS Community Health	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0.8
AS Envri. Health & Sci.	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.8
AS Fine Arts	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.8
AAS Education Associate	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.8
TOTAL	100	12	4	1	1	3	121	100.1

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Table 4

Enrollment Status Of All New Start Students As Of End Of Spring, 1989

	Previous College											
Status	BK	SI	Q	JJ	L	H	M	A	BA	C	Total	%
grad/trans [a]	126	15	5	11	0	0	1	0	3	NA	161	20.1
continuing [b]	196	60	11	53	2	15	3	2	25	4	371	46.2
drop/trans [c]	78	43	9	34	1	8	0	0	5	0	178	22.2
dismissed [d]	48	12	8	19	3	1	0	0	1	NA	92	11.5
Total	448	130	33	117	6	24	4	2	34	4	802	100.0

a graduated and/or known to have transferred to senior colleges

b continuing at KCC (Includes candidates for 8/89 graduation)

c dropped out/stopped out from KCC (includes some who transferred to other colleges)

d dismissed from KCC (includes dismissals for 9/89)

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